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ABSTRACT

This paper contains activities for classes and small groups using 24 Dr. Seuss stories. The rhymes and illustrations can spark creative writing and inspire imaginative bulletin board displays. The ideas and activities presented are useful with most elementary grades by making adjustments for student abilities. Many of the titles contain political issues which can be explored by older students. "The Lorax" looks at environmentalism and is very relevant to students today. "The Sneeches and Other Stories" explores discrimination. "Yertle The Turtle" speaks to totalitarianism, and "How the Grinch Stole Christmas" can be used to discuss the commercialization of holidays. The paper also includes three all-school activities and a brief biography and achievement chronology of Theodore Seuss Geisel (Dr. Seuss). (MG)

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Dr. Seuss is on the Loose!

Planning Month-Long Activities Using Dr. Seuss Materials

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Children of all ages enjoy the imaginative rhymes and illustrations found in the numerous Dr. Seuss books. Most library media centers have Dr. Seuss titles in print and nonprint formats. This presents a perfect opportunity to combine students and materials by sponsoring a month-long celebration of the man and his works. March makes a particularly good month since the author's birthday is the second of March.

Dr. Seuss appeals to the child's imagination. Utilize this to spark creative writing and imaginative bulletin board displays. The activities that follow are useful with most elementary grades by making adjustments for student abilities. Since children of all ages enjoy reading books written by their peers, expand the library collection to include books of writings made by individual classes.

Many of the titles contain political issues which can be explored by older students. THE LORAX looks at environmentalism and is very relevant to students today. THE SNEECHES... explores discrimination, YERTLE THE TURTLE speaks to totalitarianism, and HOW THE GRINCH STOLE CHRISTMAS can be used to discuss the commercialization of holidays.

During the month display all of your Dr. Seuss materials. Use them for story hours, book talks, and skill lessons. Show filmstrips and videotapes. Set up a listening center for tape cassettes. As a beginning or culminating activity have the Cat in the Hat serve green eggs and ham to the students at lunch time. Or, plan a birthday party for Dr. Seuss and invite students, teachers, staff, and parents to come dressed as favorite Dr. Seuss characters. Invite the art teacher to help students with mural making or in making character masks. Whole school involvement will create reading incentives that children won't forget!

Interesting facts:

—GREEN EGGS AND HAM is the third largest selling book in the English language.

—AND TO THINK THAT I SAW IT ON MULBERRY STREET, Dr. Seuss' first book, was rejected by 28 publishing houses before Vanguard Press accepted it.

—Theodore Geisel's father was a zookeeper.

—More than 100 million Dr. Seuss books have been purchased in countries abroad.

—CAT IN THE HAT was so successful that the publisher, Random House, created a special division called Beginner Books and made Dr. Seuss the division president.

—Dr. Seuss has been awarded seven honorary doctorate degrees from colleges including Dartmouth and Princeton.

—College students at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst, have a Dr. Seuss club with over 30 members.

Activities for Classes and Small Groups

AND TO THINK THAT I SAW IT ON MULBERRY STREET
© 1937
ISBN 0-0149-03868

Bulletin Board

Title the board "And to Think That I Saw It on Mulberry Street" (or use the street name in front of your school with a picture of the school at one corner). Have each student draw something imaginative to go on the street, color and cut it out, label it, and put it on the board like a winding parade.

Writing - Individual or Class Book

What is the street that you live on? Use that as the

title for your paper "And to Think That I Saw It on _____." Write an imaginative tale of what you saw on your street while walking home from school.

BARTHOLOMEW AND THE OOBLECK
(A Caldecott Honor Book)
© 1949/77
ISBN 9-394-80057-3
ISBN 0-394-90075-8 (lib)

Bulletin Board

Title the board "Oobleck and Other Air Pollutants." Students can design a board, or you can use student reports and/or book jackets about air pollution.

Upper Grades - Writing - Individual or Class Book

Air pollution—have students research and write about air pollution in the state, the nation, worldwide.

THE BUTTER BATTLE BOOK
© 1984
ISBN 0-394-86580-4
ISBN 0-394-96580-9 (lib)
ISBN 0-394-86716-5 (ltd ed)

Upper Grades

Research and discuss the Berlin Wall and the Great Wall of China and why they were built.

All Grades

Discuss the meaning of conflict and how disagreements can escalate. Have students give examples. What happened? What are other ways of resolving conflicts?

THE CAT IN THE HAT DICTIONARY
© 1964
ISBN 0-394-81009-0
ISBN 0-394-91009-5 (lib)

Writing - Individual or Class Dictionaries

Students can make individual dictionaries with alphabetic lists of words and meanings, or...

Assign letters of the alphabet to individual students for a class book. Each word should be used in a sentence and illustrated, showing the word usage.

DID I EVER TELL YOU HOW LUCKY YOU ARE?
© 1973
ISBN 0-394-82719-8
ISBN 0-394-92719-2 (lib)

Bulletin Board

Label the board "Did We Ever Tell You How Lucky We Are?" Students write briefly about something they feel lucky to have.

Writing - Individual or Class Book

"When you feel sad
Tell yourself how lucky you are
Thank goodness for all the things you are not,"

Students write "Thank goodness I am not..." and why.

THE 500 HATS OF BARTHOLOMEW CUBBINS
© 1936/65
ISBN 0-8149-0889-6

Bulletin Board

Have children design hats, color, cut out, and put on a bulletin board labeled "The 500 Hats of Bartholomew Cubbins."

Activity

Make paper hats to wear after reading the story.

Writing - Individual or Class Book

Have students write about and illustrate a story about their favorite hat.

THE FOOT BOOK
© 1968
ISBN 0-394-909-372

Bulletin Board

Have children trace around their foot onto a piece of white paper, then decorate with an unusual foot covering.

Writing - Individual or Class Book

Make individual or class books by cutting out a shoe shape from construction paper. Students write about a pair of imaginative shoes: how they feel, what they can do that's special, how they look

GREEN EGGS AND HAM
© 1960
ISBN 0-394-90016-2

Bulletin Board

"Green Eggs and Ham and Other Strange Foods." Have students draw, color, and cut out strange foods; or, put individual recipes on the board.

Writing - Individual Recipes or a Class Recipe Book

Have each student write a recipe using real foods in unusual combinations or imaginary foods. Follow recipe format for amounts, type of cookware, how to cook/bake, number of servings, etc.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO YOU!
© 1959
ISBN 0-394-80076-1
ISBN 0-394-90076-6 (lib)

Bulletin Board

Label the board "Birthday Meals." On paper plates have students write what they would like to eat for a favorite birthday meal.

Writing - Individual or Class Book

Using the outline of a present have students write about "A Present I Want for My Birthday."

Using the outline of a birthday cake with candles have students write about their birthday wish. Have students write about what they would like to do to celebrate their birthday if they could do anything at all. What would you do? Where would you go? What would you eat? Who would you invite to join you? What special present would you want?

Activity

Have an all-class or all-school birthday party.

HORTON HATCHES THE EGG
© 1940/68
ISBN 0-394-80077-4
ISBN 0-394-90077-4 (lib)

Bulletin Board

Title the bulletin board "Horton Hatches the Egg" and have a large cut-out of Horton sitting on his nest.

Students make cut-out eggs and put a creature inside which shows when the top of the egg is moved: hinge with a brad.

Writing - Individual or Class Book

Title: "Horton Also Hatched a _____." Cut egg-shaped construction paper book covers and paper pages—either one per child or for a class book. Children write about another egg that Horton finds and sits on, and what hatches.

HORTON HEARS A WHO!
© 1954
ISBN 0-394-80078-8
ISBN 0-394-90078-2 (lib)

Bulletin Board

Have a bulletin board titled "who-ville." Students make buildings and characters to create a town that is "friendly and clean."

Writing - Individual or Class Book

1. "A person's a person, no matter how small." "I've got to protect them, I'm bigger than they." Write about how you can protect people that are smaller/younger.
2. "And their whole world was saved by the smallest of all." Write stories about the world being saved by "the smallest of all."

HUNCHES IN BUNCHES
© 1982
ISBN 0-394-85502-7
ISBN 0-394-95502-1 (lib bdg)

Bulletin Board

Label the board "Hunches in Bunches." Have students each make a "hunch" to put on the board.

Discussion

Discuss decision-making techniques: how to look at options and decide which one is best. What are the consequences of different decisions?

Writing - Individual or Class Book

Have students write about a decision that they made and what happened based on that decision.

I CAN LICK 30 TIGERS TODAY AND OTHER STORIES
© 1969
ISBN 0-394-80094-X
ISBN 0-394-90094 (lib)
ISBN 0-394-84543-9 (pb)

Small Group or Class Discussion

Story - "I Can Lick 30 Tigers Today"

Discuss self-confidence—what can we do when we start feeling less confident? How can we help each other be confident?

Story - "King Looie Katz"

Discuss taking care of oneself; not expecting others to do things for us. What things can we do for ourselves? What things do we need to have done for us?

Story - "The Glunk That Got Thunk"

Discuss working together to solve problems. What does it mean when we say, "two minds are better than one"?

IF I RAN THE CIRCUS
© 1956
LC56-9469
ISBN 0-394-80080-X (trade)
ISBN 0-394-90080-4 (lib)
ISBN 0-394-84546-3 (pb)

Bulletin Board

Make a "big top" bulletin board that says "If I Ran the Circus." Have students draw, color, and cut out imaginary circus acts and animals to put on the circus board.

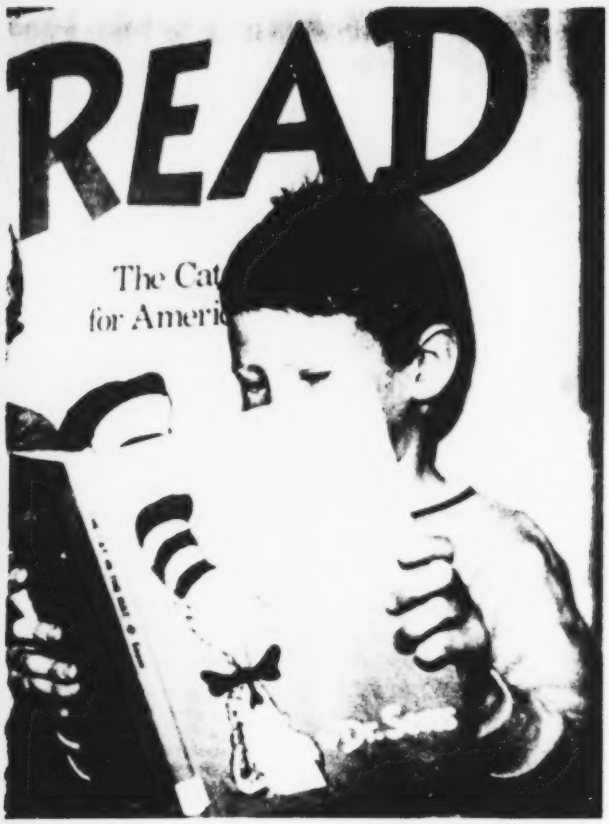
Writing - Individual or Class Book

Using a tent-shaped book have students write about (1) a circus they have been to and what they saw, and (2) animals or acts they would put in the circus if "I Ran the Circus."

IF I RAN THE ZOO
(A Caldecott Honor Book)
© 1950/78
ISBN 0-394-90081-2 (lib)
ISBN 0-394-84545 (pb)
ISBN 0-394-80081-8 (trade)

Bulletin Board

Label "If I Ran the Zoo." Students draw, color,



label, and cut out imaginary animals for their zoo.

Writing - Individual or Class Book

Students write about a trip they have taken, or would like to take, to a zoo. Which zoo? What are their favorite animals? How would they change the zoo if they were in charge?

THE KING'S STILTS
© 1939/67
ISBN 0-394-80082-6
ISBN 0-394-90082-0 (lib)

Bulletin Board

Label the board "The King's Stilts." Students can draw and cut construction paper cats to go on the board. Put a cat patrol badge on each cat. Some students can draw the King and Eric on stilts to go on the board.

Discussion - Problem-Solving

1. When Eric was locked in the deserted house how did he solve his problem and get out?
2. When Eric was trying to get the stilts to the King and Lord Droon was coming around the corner, how did Eric solve his problem and get the stilts to the King?

Activity

Have primary grade children make cat masks and cat patrol badges to wear during/after the story.

Writing - Individual or Class Project

Have students write about a real or imaginary problem and an imaginative way to solve it.

THE LORAX (in Dr. Seuss' opinion his best book)
© 1971
ISBN 0-394-9233-75

Bulletin Board

Label the board "The Lorax." Have a large cut-out Lorax saying "I speak for the trees." Students can make construction paper truffula trees to go on the board.

Upper Grades

Research and discuss or write about environmental pollution in Indiana; in the U.S. Research and discuss or write about what is happening to the Amazon Rain Forests and the worldwide effects.

McELLIGOT'S POOL
(A Caldecott Honor Book)
© 1947/75
ISBN 0-394-80083-4
ISBN 0-394-90083-9 (lib)

Bulletin Board

Label the board "McElligot's Pool." After reading the story have students make up a fish to go in the pool: color, cut out, label, and put on the board.

Writing - Individual or Class Book

Make a fish-shaped book. Have students write about a fishing trip they have gone on, or would like to go on, or . . .

Write about and illustrate "The Fish that Got Away," an imaginative fish story.

OH, THE PLACES YOU'LL GO!
© 1990
ISBN 0-679-80527-3
ISBN 0-679-90527-8 (lib)

Bulletin Board

Label the board "Oh, the Places We'll Go!" Have students either write or draw a picture about a place they want to go to and put on bulletin board.

Class Book - "Oh, the Places We'll Go!"

1st page - "We have brains in our head.
We have feet in our shoes.
We can steer ourselves
Any direction we choose."

Talk about goal-setting and making plans to reach our goals. Have each student write a page for the class book on a place they want to go, a career, etc., and how they will get there.

ON BEYOND ZEBRA
© 1955
ISBN 0-394-80084-2
ISBN 0-394-90084-7 (lib)
ISBN 0-394-84541-2 (pb)

Bulletin Board

Label the board "On Beyond Zebra." Decorate a bulletin board with students' sounds, symbols, and pictures of words using their sounds.

Writing - Individual or Class Book

1. Have students create their own "list of letters that don't stop at z." Have students create a sound

and symbol and use it in a word, defining the word, then illustrate.

2. Create a class book with each students' letter, the symbol, the sound, the definition, and the picture.

SCRAMBLED EGGS SUPER!
© 1953
ISBN 0-394-80085-0
ISBN 0-394-90085-5 (lib)
ISBN 0-394-84544-7 (pb)

Bulletin Board

Label the board "Scrambled Eggs Super!" Have children draw an imaginary bird and its egg to color, cut out, and put on a bulletin board with the name of the bird.

Writing - Individual or Class Book

Write a recipe for your own "scambled eggs ala (your name)." Create a class egg-shaped recipe book.

THE SNEETCHES AND OTHER STORIES
© 1961
ISBN 0-394-90098-8

Discussion

Story - "The Sneetches"

Discuss compulsive conformity and discrimination against others.

Story - "The Zax"

Discuss stubborness and examples of stubborness. Is it ever good to "never budge"? What are some of the consequences of stubborness?

Writing - Individual or Class Book

Using the title "What was I Scared Of?" have students write about a real or imaginary experience in which they were afraid.

Activity

Game - "Too Many Dave's"

Played like musical chairs. When you say, "Dave," everyone sits in a chair.

THIDWICK THE BIG-HEARTED MOOSE
© 1948/76
ISBN 0-394-80086-9
ISBN 0-394-90086-3 (lib)
ISBN 0-394-84540-4 (pb)

—Bulletin Board

Label the board "Thidwick the Big-Hearted Moose." Have a large paper cut-out moosehead and horns. Students draw and cut out animals to put on the horns.

Discussion

1. Manners—"For a host, above all, must be nice to his guest." Discuss ways that guests should behave; that hosts should behave.
2. Feelings—"If those are your guests, we don't want *you* around!" How did Thidwick feel? Do people get ignored or left out of a group because of the people they associate with?
3. Being taken advantage of—was Thidwick taken advantage of by the creatures that used his antlers to live in? What could Thidwick have done to have kept from being taken advantage of while still helping the others?

Writing - Individual or Class Book

Entitled "For a Host, Above All, Must be Nice to His Guest." Students write and illustrate humorous examples:

for a host, above all, must. . .
for a host, above all, must not. . .
for a guest, above all, must. . .
for a guest, above all, must not. . .

YERTLE THE TURTLE AND OTHER STORIES
© 1958
ISBN 0-394-80087-7
ISBN 0-394-90087-1 (lib)

Bulletin Board

Label the board "Yertle the Turtle." Students make a turtle pond and turtles out of construction paper. Turtles can be placed one of top of another with Yertle at the top.

Discussion

Story - "Yertle the Turtle"

Discuss greed; discuss the way Yertle used the turtles—was it fair?

Story - "Gertrude McFuzz"

Discuss jealousy and dissatisfaction with oneself. How can we be happy with who we are?

Story - "The Big Brag"

Discuss bragging.

All-School Activities

1. DR. SEUSS-LAND MURAL

Using the names of places found in Dr. Seuss books, have students design and illustrate a map mural; label each place with its name and the title of the book that it is located in.

Partial List of Places

THIDWIK... - Lake Winna-Bango.

HORTON HEARS... - Jungle of Nool, Who-ville.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY - Katroo, Mt. Zorn.

500 HATS OF BARTHO' OMEW... - Kingdom of Didd.

BARTHOLOMEW AND OOBLECK - Mystic Moutain Neeka-tave, Kingdom of David.

SCRABMBLED EGGS... - Fa-Zoal, Zummz, Mt. Strookoo.

IF I RAN THE CIRCUS - Sneelock's Store.

HORTON HATCHES... - Palm Beach; Boston; Kalamazoo; Chicago; Weehawken; Washington; Daytona, Ohio; St. Paul, Minnesota; Wichita, Kansas; Drake, North Dakota.

YERTLE THE TURTLE... - Sala-ma-Sond, Japan, England, China, Brazil, Egypt, Holland, France.

..HOW LUCKY YOU ARE - Desert of Drize, Boober Bay at Bumm Ridge, Ga-Zayt, Ga-Zair.

IF I RAN THE ZOO - Mts. of Zomba-ma-Tant, Motta-fa-Potta-fa Pell, Nantucket, Yerka, Desert of Zind, North Dakota, South Carolina, Kartoom, Mts. of Tobsk, River of Nobsk, Island of Gwark, Jungles of Hippo-no-Hungus, Dippo-no-Dungns, Nippo-no-Nungas.

BUTTER BATTLE... - McElligot's Pool, The Wall, Mulberry Street.

I HAD TROUBLE GETTING TO... - Valley of Vung, City of Solla Sollew, River Wah-Hoo, Pomplemoose Pass.

I CAN LICK 30 TIGERS... - Katzen-Stein.

SLEEP BOOK - County of Keck, Herk Heimer, Castle of Krupp, Culpepper Springs, Mercedd, Valley of Vail, Fort Knox, Zwieback Motel, Foona-Lagoona, District of Dofft, Bumble-Tub Creek, Vale of Va-Vode, Finnigan Fen.

SNEETCHES... - Sneetches Beaches, Prairie of Prax, Grin-itch, Roover River, Snide-Field

2. DR. SEUSS ASSEMBLY PROGRAM

Students put together skits based on the characters from Dr. Seuss' books.

3. CHARACTER MURAL

Students can illustrate a colorful mural based on characters from the Dr. Seuss stories. Label each character and tell which book the character is in.

Partial List of Characters

ON BEYOND ZEBRA - Conra Cornelius o'Donald o'Dell.

...MULBERRY STREET - Msrco, Quilligan Quail, Skritz, Skrink.

I HAD TROUBLE GETTING TO... - Dr. Sam Snell, General Genghin Kahn Schmitz, Poozers, Key-Slapping Slippard, Valley of Vung

I CAN LICK 30 TIGERS... - King Looie, Fooie Katz, Kooie Katz, Chooie Katz, Hooie Katz, Blooie Katz, Prooie Katz, Zooie Katzen-bein, Glunk.

KING'S STILTS - King Birtram, Lord Droon, Nizzards, Patrol Cats, Eric.

CIRCUS - Morris McGurk, Mr. Sneelock, Rolf, Drum-Tummied Snumm, Foon, Wily Waloo, Hoodwink, Truffle, Flummox, Harp-Twanging Snarp.

McELLIGOT'S POOL - Marco, Farmer.

BUTTER BATTLE BOOK - Zooks; Yooks; Chief Yookeroo; Van Itch; Daniel, the Kick-a-Poo Spaniel; Miz Yookie-Ann Sue.

THE LORAX - Lorax, Once-ler, Bar-ba-loots, Humming Fish.

THIDWICK... - Thidwick, the Big-Hearted Moose; Bingle-Bug; Zinn-a-zu Bird.

HORTON HEARS... - Horton, Wickershaw Brothers, Vlad Vlad-i-Koff (eagle).

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO YOU - Birthday Bird.

HUNCHES IN BUNCHES - Hunches.

500 HATS OF BARTHOLOMEW... -Bartholomew Cubbins, King Derwin, Sir Alaric, Sir Snipps, Nadd, Grand Duke Wilfred, Yeoman the Bowman.

SCRAMBLED EGGS... - Peter T. Hooper, Liz, Ruffle-Necked Salamagoox, Tizzle-Topped Grouse, Mop-Noodled Finch, Beagle-Beaked-Bald-Headed Grinch, Shade Roosting Quail, Twiddler Owls, Kweet, Wogs, Stroodel, Long-Legger Kwong, Pelf, Grickily Cactus, Ziffs, Zuffs, Moth-Watching Sneth, Bombastic Aghast, Jill-ikka-Jast.

SLEEP BOOK - Van Vleck, Biffer-Baum Birds, Herk-Heimer Sisters, Hinkle-Horn Honkers, Collapsible Frink, Jo and Mo Redd-Zoff, Hoop-Soup-Snoop Group, Curious Crandalls, Chippendale Mupp, J. Carmichael Krox, Snorter McPhail, Jeff, Offt, Bumble-Tub Club.

THIDWICK... - Thidwick, Bingle Bug, Tree-Spider, Zinn-a-zu Bird, Herman.

THE SNEETCHES - Star-Belly Sneetches, Plain-Belly Sneetches, Sylvester McMonkey McBean, Zax, Mrs. McCave, Dave.

HORTON HATCHES... - Mayzie (a lazy bird), Elephant Bird, Horton.

YERTLE THE TURTLE... - Yertle the Turtle, Mack, Gertrude McFuzz, Lolla-Lee-Lou, Dake, Bear, Rabbit, Worm.

IF I RAN THE ZOO - Gerald McGrew, Elephant Cat, Bustard Bird, Joats, Lunks, Flustard Beast, Mulligatawny, Iota, Thwerll, Chuggs, Tufted Mazurka, Tick-Tack-Toe, Gussett, Gasket, Gootch, Natch, Obsk, Russian Palooski, It-Kutch, Preep, Proo, Nerkle, Nerd, Seersucker, Bippo-no-Bungas, Fizza-ma-Wizza-ma-Dill.

Brief Biography

A brief biography and achievement chronology of Theodore Seuss Geisel (Dr. Seuss):

Born March 2, 1904, Springfield, Massachusetts

1922-25	Attended Dartmouth College, Hanover, New Hampshire
1925-26	Briefly attended Oxford University
1926-27	Traveled through Europe
1930's	Freelance artist
1940's	Political cartoonist
1943-46	Commissioned as a U.S. Army Captain, in Information and Education Division. After three years had rank of Lt. Colonel.
1946	Academy Award, Best Documentary Short Subject for "Hitler Lives," written for the U.S. Army as "Your Job in Germany."
1947	Academy Award, Best Documentary Feature for "Design for Death," a history of the Japanese people.
1951	Academy Award, Animated Cartoon for "Gerald McBoing Boing."
1971	Peabody Awards for television specials "How the Grinch Stole Christmas" and "Horton Hears the Who."
1976	First Outstanding California Author Award by California Association of Teachers of English.
1977	Emmy, Best Children's Special, "Halloween is Grinch Night."
1980	Laura Ingalls Wilder Award, Association for Library Service to Children, American Library Association.
1984	Awarded Pulitzer Prize in Special Citation.

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